

EXHIBIT F

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
08/238,080

Applicant(s)

Collins et al.

Examiner
Dianne Rees

Group Art Unit
1807



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

This communication is responsive to 7/10/97, 7/14/97

The allowed claim(s) is/are 25-50 and 53-66

The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in **ABANDONMENT** of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 22.

including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Examiner's Amendment/Comment

Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Interview Summary

Application No.
08/238,080

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Examiner
Dianne Rees

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1807



All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Dianne Rees (3) _____
(2) Norvall Galloway (4) _____

Date of Interview Oct 13, 1997

Type: Telephonic Personal (copy is given to applicant applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: Yes No. If yes, brief description:

Agreement was reached. was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: all pending

Identification of prior art discussed:

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:
Discussed that Applicant's Executed Declaration and Terminal Disclaimer had been received and matched to the Application and that the case was now in condition for allowance.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.

Art Unit:

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are drawn to methods of PCR amplification wherein the target is first separated from the sample by using a support that binds to the target polynucleotide and then amplified. In further embodiments of the invention a probe is contacted to a target and the target probe complexes then contacted to the support which binds to the probe and the support and complex are separated from the medium, The probe target complex is then leased into a second medium and substantially separated from the support and the target is subsequently amplified..The instant application has priority to 10/23/86

The closest prior art is Vary et al and Henson et al. Vary et al teaches a method for amplifying and detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample comprising amplifying the target polynucleotide by primer extension, immobilizing the amplified polynucleotide on a support , separating the amplified polynucleotide and detecting said polynucleotide. Vary et al does not teach binding a target polynucleotide to the support prior to amplification and does not teach retrievable supports. Henson et a teaches general methods of isolating a target sequence of interest from a sample by immobilization onto a solid support and that the order of reaction

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Art Unit:

between a single stranded nucleic acid and a probe and a support may be varied according to experimental needs. However, the art at the time of filing did not recognize that the efficiency of PCR amplification would decrease due to the presence of contaminants in a sample and therefore provided no motivation to purify a target sample from a heterogenous sample of nucleic acids prior to amplification. Having not recognized the problem, applicant's solution therefore, while utilizing routine methodology to modify PCR amplification techniques, would not have been obvious at the time that the invention was made. The Declaration of Dr. David Pershing, further supports this conclusion as providing further evidence concerning the skill of the art at the time of filing, attesting that one of skill in the art would likely stay away from combining a hybridization capture method with a PCR method since one would not be motivated to provide a method with the potential to lose target nucleic acids prior to amplification.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

08238080

Art Unit:

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dianne Rees whose telephone number is (703) 308-6565.

08238080


W. GARY JONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 1800
10/14/97

Dianne Rees
October 13, 1997
10/13/97